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LONG ISLAND MAN CHARGED WITH SCALPING US OPEN TICKETS

Allegedly Had 339 Tickets On Person And In Car; Face Value Of Tickets Exceeds \$10,000

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Long Island man has been charged with soliciting US Open tickets for resale at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadow-Corona Park. At the time of his arrest, the defendant is alleged to have had 339 tickets in his possession with a face value exceeding \$10,000.

District Attorney Brown said, "The US Open Tennis Championships is a prestigious international sporting event that draws people from all over the world and has a significant impact on our local economy. As such, it is vitally important that nothing mars its image in the eyes of the world. As in years past, my office – working with police and US Open security personnel – maintains a continuous presence at the two-week tournament to clamp down on any illegal and inappropriate actions – such as ticket scalping which victimize consumers by making them pay more on the secondary ticket market."

District Attorney Brown noted that New York State law prohibits the reselling of tickets within 1,500 feet of any venue which has a permanent seating capacity in excess of five thousands person.

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Marvin Schaffer, 61, of 792 Glen Cove Avenue in Glen Head, Long Island. Schaffer, who is employed as an accountant, was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Ira Margulis on charges of violating New York's Arts and Cultural Affairs Laws – specifically, Resales of Tickets Within Buffer Zone Ticket Speculators and Licensing of Ticket Reselling. Schaffer, who faces up to 180 days in jail if convicted, was released on his own recognizance and ordered to return to court on October 21, 2010.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, Schaffer was observed by police handing two US Open tickets to two unapprehended others in exchange for a sum of money near the "Will Call" ticket booth at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Stadium around noontime on August 31, 2010.

At the time of his arrest, Schaffer allegedly admitted that he did not have a license to sell or resell tickets to entertainment events. He was also allegedly found to have 4 US Open tickets in his pants pocket and 335 tickets in a black handbag. The handbag also allegedly contained listings from craigslist, stubHub, ticketsNow and ticketmaster with the defendant's name, account number and current open sale offers for tickets to various events. A total of \$750 in cash was also allegedly recovered from Schaffer's pants pocket.

A court-authorized search warrant drafted by the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau was executed later in the day on the defendant's BMW, which was parked in the New York Hall of Science lot (also in Flushing Meadow-Corona Park), and four more US Open tickets were recovered, as well as 20 USTA parking permits, 28 New York Jets parking permits, one US Open program and a US Open seating chart. The tickets and other paraphernalia were seized by authorities and vouchered as evidence.

The investigation was conducted by officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's Patrol Borough Queens North and members of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau and its Intake Bureau.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Purvi Patel, of the Economic Crimes Bureau, which is under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: E-version of press release posted at www.queensda.org.